

I.O. - 9085

HAIMOVITCH BARRED FROM RACING

Race Club Stewards Suspend Jockey Until End Of Year

As the result of a meeting of the Stewards of the Shanghai Race Club on Saturday night, it was decided to suspend Mr. Victor Haimovitch from riding until December 31, 1930. The decision was reached following a special meeting of the Stewards, at which evidence was given by both Mr. Haimovitch and Dr. E. J. Edgar regarding the incident which led to the suspension of Mr. Haimovitch from riding in the Champions on Wednesday last.

It will be recalled that Mr. Haimovitch, who has been riding ponies successfully in Shanghai during the past ten years, and who was expected to ride Busy Bee in the Champions, was not permitted at the last minute to ride any pony in the main event of the Spring meeting. His mount, Busy Bee, much to the surprise of the public, was given to Mr. Bowling, who successfully rode the pony to victory.

It subsequently transpired that Mr. Haimovitch had been disbarred from riding owing to certain charges levelled against him by Dr. Edgar in whose name the winning ticket was held. Prior to the race, the Stewards held a meeting and suspended Mr. Haimovitch from riding in the Champions.

On Saturday, a further inquiry was held, as the result of which Mr. Haimovitch was suspended until the end of the current year.

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1/10 Special Branch
Information

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12:5:30

THE CHAMPIONS SENSATION

Jockey Designated to Ride Busy Bee Suspended by Stewards at Last Moment Following Statement by Ticket Holder

MR. V. HAIMOVITCH'S VERSION LAST NIGHT

Stewards' Finding of "Improper Suggestions" Said to be Due to Misunderstanding

The Champions Race yesterday afternoon was marked by a sensation which we believe to be unprecedented in the history of racing in Shanghai. While all the facts have not yet been made public, we understand that as a result of a complaint made to the Stewards of the Race Club, by the holder of a ticket on Busy Bee, the favourite in the race, the stewards held an investigation as a result of which Mr. V. Haimovitch, a most successful jockey, was indefinitely suspended, and Busy Bee, his mount, entrusted to another jockey. We understand that the decision of the Stewards, taken yesterday before the race, is open to further review, but, in view of the action taken and its general importance to racing in Shanghai, we are publishing the following, although, naturally, under the greatest possible reserve.

In a criticism of the training gallops prior to the recent Hongkong race meeting, the sporting correspondent of one of the leading southern papers, whose pronouncements compel consideration, referred to Mr. Victor Haimovitch as "the best jockey in China." There is every reason for technical argument as to whether Haimovitch has hands, judgment of pace, knowledge of "horse" and all the other qualifications which go to make the perfect horseman and jockey, but there cannot be any possible denial of the fact that he is the finest winning jockey in China of the moment, and the finest there has been for many years, excelled possibly in this particular only by Mr. Frank Vida, who was an acknowledged horseman as well.

The Notice of Suspension

In the circumstances, there was naturally a sensation when, prior to the race for the Shanghai Champions yesterday—the most important race on any course in the Far East, and in which Mr. Haimovitch was engaged to ride one of the greatest possible racing certainties for many years—it was announced that he had been suspended indefinitely from riding. The announcement was made in a notification published on the Shanghai Race Club's notice boards, and so available only to members, but, in view of its importance, it seems only proper to make it generally known. The announcement was:—

The Stewards after hearing evidence on a report made in connection with Mr. V. Haimovitch and the drawer of "Busy Bee" in the "A" Sweep, are unanimously of the opinion that improper suggestions were made and have suspended Mr. Haimovitch indefinitely.

By order of the Stewards,
A. W. OLSEN,
Secretary, Shanghai Race Club.

As a consequence of the above, Mr. Haimovitch, who would have ridden Busy Bee, gave the mount to Mr. W. Bowling, who had been engaged to ride the stable's second string, Banquet Eve, the latter being taken over by Mr. J. F. Clarke, and the stable's third string (Election Eve) being ridden by Mr. T. J. Rothe. Busy Bee won very easily in time equalling record, and Banquet Eve was fourth.

Mr. Haimovitch's Statement

We are informed by Mr. Haimovitch that his suspension was due to a complete misunderstanding by Dr. Edgar of certain remarks passed immediately before the "Champions".

He was in the drawing room, he informs us, when he heard that Dr. Edgar had drawn Busy Bee in the sweep. An offer to buy a one-tenth interest in the horse made by Mr. Haimovitch, and certain allusions to the respective chances of Busy Bee and Banquet Eve, were apparently taken as meaning that a share in the ticket would be an incentive to win.

The word "clinch" regarding the chances of Busy Bee figured largely in the alleged misunderstanding. This was said to have been heard as "switch." A statement by Mr. Haimovitch that Banquet Eve was "dangerous" also featured in the complaint to the stewards.

Mr. Haimovitch was confident that the stewards would on closer consideration of the whole matter, take steps to rectify an injustice. He had been a leading jockey for many years and his integrity had never previously been questioned. He informed us that he was out to make a record in the race, and that his offer to buy a one-tenth share in Dr. Edgar's ticket, which was not against the rules, was made in good faith and in a sporting spirit.

W/O Special Branch
Information W/O 500

No. 9085
April 20, 1928.

D. C. J.

There is nothing on record concerning V. Haimovitch.

Victor M. Haimovitch is a popular member of the British-Jewish community of Shanghai and a member of the Shanghai Brokers Association, his office being at 20 Museum Road. He is also a well-known jockey and rider for Mr. H. S. Elias and prominent Chinese owners at most of the local race meetings where his methods of riding have been frequently severely criticised by the public. His morals also leave much to be desired.

Haimovitch, who is popularly known as "Vick" was put up for the Shanghai Race Club but was black balled at a meeting held in the Club's premises on April 16, owing it is said to his having been connected with Mr. Judah Czra in the "Baseball Scandal" in Shanghai in August 1918. This latter incident was the cause of a great deal of talk in town and resulted in Mr. Judah Czra's name being removed from the rolls of members of the Shanghai Race Club.

Several articles referring to the Baseball Scandal are to be found in the North China Herald of August 24 and 31 and September 14, 1918 respectively.

J. H. H. H.

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A. Robertson

D. I.